

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 17-29 and 32-41 are pending in this application. Claims 15, 16, 27-31, and 39-41 stand rejected and claims 17-26 and 32-38 are objected to. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 1-14, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17-26 and 32-38. By this Amendment, claims 17, 21, 27-29, 32, 36, and 39-41 have been amended, and claims 15, 16, 30, and 31 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 17, 32 and 36 have been rewritten in independent form to expedite allowance of this case. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 15, 16, 27-31, and 39-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,974,493 ("Okumura"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner noted that claims 17 and 32 contained allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten claims 17 and 32 in independent form and changed the dependencies of the claims to depend from allowable claims 17 and 32.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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